

I claim:

1. A method of analyzing student performance in an electronic course, the method comprising:

classifying student performance into discrete performance classifications associated with corresponding activities;

establishing a benchmark performance level for each of the performance classification classifications;

measuring an observed student performance level for at least one of the performance classifications;

determining whether the observed student performance level is compliant with the established benchmark performance level for the at least one performance classification; and

identifying a instructive feedback for the individual based upon any material deviation of the observed student performance level from the benchmark performance level and an identity of the at least one performance classification of deficient student performance.

2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the discrete performance classifications comprises at least one of assignments, problems, self-assessment tests, scenarios, course content overviews, subject summaries, student communications, course

participation, course participation, guided problems, presentations, multimedia presentations, audio presentations, and visual presentations.

3. The method according to claim 1 wherein the measuring includes tracking a number of clicks of a pointing device associated with a particular student terminal in the discrete performance classifications.

4. The method according to claim 3 wherein the benchmark performance level for each performance classification represents a range of student clicks, bounded by a minimum acceptable number of clicks and a maximum acceptable number of clicks.

5. The method according to claim 1 wherein the determining detects that a particular student has participated in a nutshell classification to a greater extent than a benchmark level and wherein an overall performance level of the particular student is lesser than an average performance level or mean performance level of other students enrolled in the same electronic course.

6. The method according to claim 5 further comprising sending a data message as instructive feedback to the particular student to discuss at least one nutshell related to the same electronic course.

7. The method according to claim 5 further comprising sending a data message as instructive feedback to encourage the student to confirm the student's understanding of a student communication associated with the subject matter of at least one of the nutshells associated with the same electronic course.

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8. The method according to claim 1 wherein the determining detects that a particular student has successfully completed a self-assessment test and wherein the instructive feedback comprises congratulating the particular student on completing the self-assessment test.

9. The method according to claim 1 wherein the instructive feedback comprises a corrective action to improve an identified deficiency of the student in the electronic course.

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10. The method according to claim 1 further comprising maintaining a database containing student identifiers, observed performance levels associated with the student identifiers, performance classification identifiers associated with the student identifiers, and benchmark performance levels associated with at least one corresponding electronic course.

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11. A method of analyzing student performance in an electronic course, the method comprising:

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identifying a relevant course module related to the subject matter of a question of the particular student;

retrieving a diagnostic flow chart on the relevant course module based on the subject matter of the question;

5 determining whether the particular student has completed at least one requisite assignment associated with the relevant course module; and

providing instructive feedback to the particular student based upon the determining.

12. The method according to claim 11 wherein the providing step comprises:

instructing the particular student to complete at least one incomplete assignment associated with the relevant course module.

13. The method according to claim 11 wherein the providing step comprises:

15 instructing the particular student to view a list of frequently asked questions associated with the relevant course module.

14. The method according to claim 11 further comprising:

determining if the particular student participated in at least one requisite student communication associated with the relevant course module and the question.

20 15. The method according to claim 14 further comprising:

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instructing the student to review a transcript of an applicable student communications in which the particular student did not participate.

16. The method according to claim 14 comprising:

5           instructing the particular student based on a referral to at least one of a reference publication and a reference source related to the question if the particular student has participated in all of the requisite student communications related to the electronic course.

17. A system of analyzing student performance in an electronic course, the system comprising:

          a monitor for classifying student performance into discrete performance classifications associated with corresponding activities, the monitor establishing a benchmark performance level for corresponding ones of the performance  
15       classifications;

          an analyzer for analyzing student performance of a particular student in at least one of the performance classifications; and

          a feedback generator for identifying or determining an instructive feedback for the particular student based upon any material deviation of the student performance  
20       from the benchmark level and an identity of the analyzed performance classification.

18. The system according to claim 17 wherein the discrete performance classifications comprises at least one of assignments, problems, self-assessment tests, scenarios, course content overviews, nutshell presentations, subject summaries, student communications, course participation, presentation, guided problems, and course attendance.

19. The system according to claim 17 wherein the analyzer tracks the number of student clicks of a pointing device associated with a student terminal of the discrete performance classifications.

20. The system according to claim 19 wherein the benchmark performance level for each classification represents a range of student clicks, bounded by a minimum acceptable number of clicks and a maximum acceptable number of clicks.

21. The system according to claim 17 wherein the analyzer detects that a student has completed a certain task and wherein the feedback generator generates instructive feedback comprises congratulating the student on completion of the task.

22. The system according to claim 17 wherein the analyzer detects that a student has completed a self-assessment test and wherein the feedback generator generates

instructive feedback comprising congratulating the student on completing the self-assessment test.

23. The system according to claim 17 wherein the instructive feedback comprises a corrective action to improve an identified deficiency of the student in the electronic course.

24. The system according to claim 17 further comprising a database containing at least one of student identifiers, observed performance levels associated with the student identifiers, performance classifications associated with the student identifiers, and benchmark performance levels associated with at least one corresponding electronic course, the database supporting the feedback generator.

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